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May, 1990

Hazardous Waste Program Fact Sheet

Chempro, Inc. Pier 91 Facility Seattle, Washington

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chemical Processors, Incorporated (Chempro) have signed an agreement to investigate contamination at the Pier 91 facility. The agreement specifies actions to be taken by Chempro to determine the nature and extent of contamination on the site located near the northern shore of Elliot Bay in Seattle.

Background

The property is currently owned by the Port of Seattle and has been leased by Chempro since 1971. Chempro currently handles oil, reprocessed oil, coolant emulsions, industrial wastewater and waste sludges. Some materials are recycled. The facility includes above ground storage tanks and piping connecting the tank system.

Records indicate that the first tanks were built in the late 1920's for use in a gas refinery by the California Petroleum Company. The Port of Seattle has owned the property on an intermittent basis since at least 1931. From 1941 to the early 1970's, the U.S. Navy took over ownership of the tank system for use as a fuel and lubricating oil transfer station. The property has been under the continued ownership of the Port of Seattle since about 1976.

In March of 1988, EPA took environmental samples as a part of a Facility Assessment under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This assessment was prompted by reports of spills of oily liquids at the site. Historical information indicates that oil spills go back to the 1930's, many pre-dating Chempro's occupancy of the facility.

Chempro has since investigated both soil and groundwater contamination at the site. Both soil samples and groundwater monitoring wells have revealed contamination. Among the contaminants are a variety of organic chemicals such as benzene, vinyl chloride, dichloroethene, toluene and xylenes. One of the principal concerns is the possible contamination of the adjacent marine environment in Elliot Bay.

The Agreed Order

Under the Agreed Order with EPA, Chempro will conduct a detailed Facility Investigation. The investigation will evaluate how much contamination is at the site, outline possible cleanup alternatives, and determine the extent (if any) of environmental or human health risks.

Activities on the site will include:

- Groundwater monitoring, including the possible installation of new wells to compliment the six existing sampling wells.
- Soil sampling, including additional soil borings to better understand the extent and depth of contamination.
- Assessing the possible movement of contaminants from the site.

Should an immediate threat to human health be discovered during the course of the Facility Study, EPA will require prompt action to minimize or eliminate that risk. If EPA determines that cleanup actions are needed, Chempro will evaluate alternative measures and make recommendations to EPA. EPA will oversee all work at the site.

USEPA RCRA



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What's Next?

Upon the completion of the study, EPA will determine if further action is needed. EPA will keep the public informed of developments at the Pier 91 facility through fact sheets and public meetings as necessary.

For More Information, Contact:

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Documents regarding the site, including the Agreed Order, are available for public review at:

**The EPA Library
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101**



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Environmental Protection
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